

## **Suggested Content Feasibility Report and/or Planning Report/EIS**

Feasibility studies are detailed investigations specifically authorized by law to determine the desirability of seeking congressional authorization for implementation. Feasibility studies cannot begin until specifically authorized in accordance with the Federal Water Project Recreation Act (Public Law 89-72, Section 8; Stat. 217). While appraisal studies use existing data, feasibility studies include additional data collection and analyses to develop and consider a full and reasonable range of alternatives. Feasibility studies must be consistent with the *Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies* (P&Gs).

Feasibility studies are normally integrated with compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and other related environmental and cultural resource laws. These combined studies culminate in an integrated planning report/NEPA compliance document. Also see <http://www.usbr.gov/recman/cmp/cmp05-02.htm>.

### **Table of Contents Summary**

#### **Chapter 1. Introduction**

- Location of potential project
- Study purpose, scope, and objectives
- Study authority
- Public involvement/scoping
- Previous studies of the project area by Reclamation or others
- Relationship of other water and related resources activities to our study

#### **Chapter 2. Need for Action**

This chapter defines the problems, needs, and opportunities toward which plan formulation is directed, e.g., municipal and industrial water, irrigation, fish and wildlife, environmental quality, recreation, flood control, energy. This chapter also addresses needs associated with National, State, and local concerns and clearly define the problem in each category and the resource needs to solve the problem.

This chapter should state problems, needs, and opportunities for both current and future conditions.

### **Chapter 3. Resources, Opportunities, and Constraints**

This chapter provides a general discussion of present and future conditions in those resource categories that have a bearing on the formulation of plans to address the identified needs. This chapter should cite physical, statutory, social, institutional, and environmental opportunities and constraints that limit the capability of the resources to meet needs.

### **Chapter 4. Alternatives** *(order of discussion optional)*

Alternative formulation

Recommended plan

Overview of plan concept

Plan accomplishments

Plan description

Project costs

*(Note: include the following sections if the feasibility study analyzes “new water.”)*

Economic and financial analysis

Discuss National Economic Development evaluation, cost allocation, and cost sharing. Also describe non-Federal interest and participation in project funding.

Environmental acceptability

Briefly discuss, since supporting analyses are included in the Environmental Quality Account and Environmental consequences discussion.

Social acceptability

Briefly discuss, since supporting analyses are included in the Social Account and environmental consequences discussions.

Actions and permits

Other viable alternatives

No Action Alternative

Explain that this alternative serves as the basis for determining the effects of all viable alternatives.

Comparative evaluation and plan selection (include Recommended Plan, other viable alternatives, and No Action Alternative). Evaluate each alternative on a number of parameters, e.g., economic, environmental, social, legal, institutional, and technical.

1. Include a comparative four-account display consisting of the National Economic Development, Environmental Quality, Regional Economic Development, and Social evaluations. The evaluations must be consistent with and supported by the environmental consequences analysis.
2. Include a comparative discussion of responsiveness of alternatives (tests of viability) in instances where these factors influence plan selection. The tests of viability are (1) acceptability (support for the plan, areas of conflict, unresolved issues); effectiveness; efficiency; and completeness.
3. Give the rationale for selecting the Recommended Plan.

Other Plans Considered (eliminated as viable alternatives)

## **Chapter 5. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences**

*Note: For a Feasibility Report, note only the Potential Effects of Alternatives*

Setting

Water resources

Fish and wildlife

Recreation

Other resources, if they are issues

Endangered species

Economics

Social environment

Cultural resources

Indian trust assets

Environmental justice

Cumulative impacts

Unavoidable adverse impacts

Relationship of short-term uses and long-term productivity

Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources

## **Chapter 6. Consultation and Coordination**

Public involvement

Scoping process

Public meetings

Fish and wildlife consultation

Endangered Species Act, Section 7

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Cultural resources consultation

Issues to be resolved and areas of controversy

Other agency consultation

Executive Orders

## **Chapter 7. Conclusions and Recommendations** *(Note: do not include in a PR/EIS.)*

Conclusions

Recommendations

Distribution List

List of Preparers

Environmental Commitments

Glossary

Bibliography

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Index

Attachments

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report and Responses  
to Recommendations  
Others as appropriate

**Lists of Figures and Tables**